

1853-55 & 1856

6. An Indian Uprising. 1853—1855.

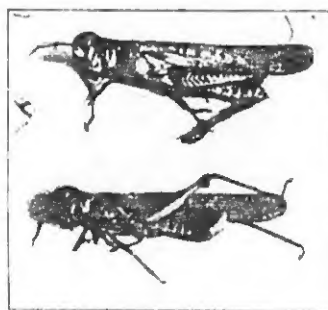
The Walker War. During a portion of the period covered by the preceding chapter, the work of colonizing in Central and Southern Utah was interrupted by an Indian war. It broke out in the summer of 1853, and was called the Walker War; the Ute chief, Walker (or Walkara), being at the head and front of the hostiles.

This chief was naturally quarrelsome and blood-thirsty, and until he learned that the settlers meant no harm but only good to him and his people, he gave them considerable trouble. His name was a terror to the whites as far west as the settlements of California, which he raided and robbed at will, returning with his plunder to the mountains of Utah. He was also feared and hated by other tribes of Indians. Walker was not a noble character, like Sowiette, but made up for what he lacked in true nobility by savage fierceness and that scornful pride that sometimes passes for dignity.

Walker and Sowiette. When the Pioneers were approaching Salt Lake Valley, it being known that they intended to found settlements in this region, the question of how the new-comers should be treated came up for consideration at a large Ute encampment

7. A Year of Calamities. 1856.

Grasshoppers and Crop Failures. Eighteen hundred and fifty-six was a year of calamities for Utah.



GRASSHOPPERS, OR LOCUSTS.

The crops of two seasons had failed, and another famine threatened the people. The crop failure of 1854 was owing to a visitation of grasshoppers, which were almost if not quite as destructive as the crickets. Unlike those voracious pests they had wings and could fly beyond the reach of

their pursuers. The following year the locusts returned, and during the summer, in many parts of the land, they devoured every green thing visible.

Drouth, Frost and Famine. Added to that plague there was a serious drouth, which well nigh completed the work of devastation. Then came the winter—one of the severest ever known in Utah, burying the grazing lands under heavy snows and causing the

beef cattle that would have supplied the market next season. The loss in horses and sheep was also heavy.

During the early months of the new year the people suffered much privation. Many, as before, were driven to the necessity of digging and eating roots—the sego, the artichoke, and other wild growths—to eke out an existence until harvest time.



HEBER C. KIMBALL.

Ministering to the Needy. All were not alike destitute. Some, foreseeing the straitness, had provided against it. Their bins and barns were full, while others were empty. Those who had, gave to those who had not, and the full larders and store-houses were drawn upon to supply the needy and prevent suffering. Among the most provident and the most benevolent were Heber C. Kimball, at Salt Lake City, and John Neflon Mill Creek.

These men and others stood like so many Josephs in Egypt to the hungry multitude. They took no advantage of their neighbors. Where they did not give outright, as was often the case, they sold at moderate